(b) and (c) Mr. Li Changchun called on the President, met EAM and Shri Pramod Mahajan, Minister for Information Technology & Parliamentary Affairs. EAM had detailed discussions with Mr. Li Changchun in which views on bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest were exchanged. Both agreed on the usefulness of greater interaction at different levels, both at the national and provincial levels. Both sides also agreed that there are concrete opportunities for development of bilateral trade.

Discussion on CICA

3411. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit of Kazakhstan Assistant Foreign Minister in May this year, the proposed Summit Meeting of CICA (Conference of Interaction and Confidence building measures in Asia) slated for November, 2001, was also discussed; and

(b) if so, the precise issues discussed in relation to CICA indicating the venue and agenda of the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) During the visit of Mr. Kairat Abouseitov, the Vice Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan to India on 21st May 2001, discussions were held on the Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) proposed to be held in Almaty from 8th-10th November 2001.

(b) Kazakhstan has taken the initiative to host the Summit. A Special Working Group of CICA is negotiating a Document for adoption by the Heads of State or Government of CICA member states at this Summit. The document aims at putting on a firm footing the incipient process which had commenced with the Declaration of Principles signed at the meeting of Foreign Minister of CICA Member States in Almaty in 1999. Mr. Abouseitov, in his capacity as Chairman of this Special Working Group, visited India as part of a series of visits he was making to various national capitals of CICA member states for bilateral consultations on various aspects of this draft Document. The formal agenda of the Summit has not yet been finalised.